IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

March 7, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STURGEON made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 162.]

The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of George V. Mitchell, report:

That the said George V. Mitchell was superseded as postmaster at Bellesville, Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, in June, 1841, and Joseph Goodheart appointed in his place. At the time he left the office and settlement of his accounts, he (Mitchell) was indebted to the department \$101 99. A draft for this amount was sent to his successor for collection.

At the time the draft was presented, George V. Mitchell had not the money, having failed to collect it of those from whom it was due for postage, and the draft was returned by Goodheart to the

Post Office Department.

Subsequently Mitchell paid the amount to Goodheart, his successor, for which he took a receipt. Goodheart failed to pay the money over to the department, and suit was brought against Mitchell. When the summons was served on Mitchell by the United States marshal, he called on Goodheart, who informed him that he had neglected to send on money at the proper time, but that he was about sending on his quarterly account, and the money should be sent with it. On this assurance Mitchell paid no more attention to the matter and supposed all was adjusted, when to his surprise, two years afterwards, an execution was issued against him from the United States court, suit having went against him by default, and without he (Mitchell) having any knowledge of the matter.

At this time Goodheart was out of office, and totally insolvent. Under this view of the subject, and believing that Mitchell having in good faith once paid the money to an agent of the government, should not be compelled to pay it again, therefore report a bill in his favor.

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